MARVEL

4

LGY#216

# BLACK PANTHER

VS.

## DEATHLOK

EWING
ALLEN
CHATER
YEUNG
ABURTOV

AH, THE IMITATION PANTHER EVERYONE HAS BEEN PRATTLING ON ABOUT IS HERE!

HOW QUAINT. I CAME FOR THE KISUS, BUT THIS WILL BE FUN!

WHY ARE YOU HERE, DEATHLOK?

WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH THE NKISU FAMILY?

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!

GOING TO WARN BABA NKISU OF MY PRESENCE?

THAT'S NOT MY BUSINESS.

AND I THINK THEY ARE PRETTY WELL AWARE--

NNNGH!

GGRRNGH!

THIS CONTROL BOX IS MORE RESILIENT THAN IT WAS LAST WE MET.

I'VE HAD SOME UPGRADES.

PEEW-PEEW

THIS DISTRACTION HAS GROWN TIRESOME. I HAVE OTHER PLACES TO BE.

GOODBYE, PRETENDER.

NNNNNGH!

N-N-N-N-NO!

NO!

KRRRAAASH

WHAT ARE YOU *WAITING* FOR? THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE.

BEISA...I DON'T THINK HE IS UNDER HIS OWN AUTONOMOUS *CONTROL.*

"SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THERE."

HELP... ME!!!

IF YOU CAN HELP ME KEEP HIM *SUBDUED*, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACCESS HIS CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT.

OR I COULD GO *HOME*.

AND MISS THIS REVELRY? YOU WOULD *NEVER*.

WHOEVER ADDED THESE UPGRADES INSTALLED A *REMOTE-PILOTING* FUNCTION.

***WAKANDAN*** IN ORIGIN. I CAN DISENGAGE. BUT FIRST, DOWNLOADING THE ACTIVITY LOG SO WE CAN TRACE THE LOCATION OF WHOEVER--

*MEDDLESOME TRASH!*

OOF!

VVVVOOOOOOOM

FINISH THIS ALREADY--BEFORE HE BRINGS DOWN THE *BUILDING!*

URRRRK!

HOW DO WE KNOW IF THAT WORKED?

IT WORKED. THANK YOU.

SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

I HAVE NO SHORT-TERM MEMORY BEFORE WAKING UP IN SOME KIND OF COMPOUND, UNDER HEAVY RESTRAINT.

I'M SENDING YOU A FILE NOW WITH MY VISUAL RECORDS. JUST A SECOND.

THAT'S KASINDA ILONGA.

THE ILONGAS ARE THE RIVALS OF THE NKISU FAMILY. I ASSUME THE PLAN WAS TO WRECK THE WEDDING AND KILL BABA NKISU.

I AM SORRY. NO ONE DESERVES TO BE A PRISONER IN THEIR OWN CONSCIOUSNESS.

I'M AFRAID I AM IN VERY LITTLE POSITION TO ASSIST YOU MUCH AT THE MOMENT.

AT LEAST NOW YOU ARE FREE TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY.

I'LL MAKE DO.

SO MUCH FOR RECON.

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. BUT POLITICAL UNREST AND DISTRUST BETWEEN THE MONARCHY AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT SOON PUSHED THE NATION TO THE EDGE OF CIVIL WAR. IN THE END, TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA.

T'CHALLA TEAMED UP WITH THE THIEF BEISA TO CRASH BIRNIN T'CHAKA'S MOST GLAMOROUS WEDDING AND TO INVESTIGATE SERIAL DISAPPEARANCES THROUGHOUT THE CITY THAT ARE SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO BABA NKISU, THE HEAD OF THE NKISU CRIME FAMILY. BUT THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY UNEXPECTED GUESTS. IN A GRAB FOR POWER, THE ILONGA CRIME FAMILY DEPLOYED THE ASSASSIN DEATHLOK TO INTERRUPT THE FESTIVITIES!

# BLACK PANTHER

## REIGN AT DUSK PART 4

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A DAY LATER, ELSEWHERE IN BIRNIN T'CHAKA...

EXORBITANT FEES! SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE!

IT'S *DISCRIMINATION!* THE MARKET OFFICIALS ARE *UPCHARGING* ANYONE WHO IS NOT *PANTHER CLAN.*

I HEAR YOU. YOU ARE NOT THE *FIRST* TO BRING THIS COMPLAINT.

LION CLAN. CROCODILE CLAN. ALWAYS THE *SHORT* END OF THE STICK.

*MAYBE* IF YOU'RE HYENA CLAN, THEY'LL GIVE YOU HALF A CHANCE. *MAYBE.* IT'S BIGOTRY, N'YOBI! IT CAN'T BE LEGAL!

*:SIGH:-* I HEAR YOU, FRIEND. CASTE DISCRIMINATION HAS *NOT* BEEN OUTLAWED IN THE WAKANDAN LEGAL CODE.

THERE ARE SOME PROPOSALS BEFORE THE *NEW COUNCIL.* I'M MONITORING THAT SITUATION. IN THE MEANTIME, DOCUMENT *EVERYTHING.*

THANK YOU, N'YOBI!

YOU'RE WELCOME! CAN YOU PLEASE BE CAREFUL NOT TO SLAM THE--

*--DOOR.*

YOU WANT TO *SUPPORT* LOCAL *BUSINESSES*, BUT THIS TEA IS *SUBPAR*.

TALKING TO YOURSELF AGAIN, COUSIN?

PERHAPS. OR PERHAPS I PRESUMED YOU'D BE ALONG ANY MOMENT.

CASTE-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION UP FOR DEBATE, *HM?*

*MM*. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS BUSY. *SLOW*. BUT BUSY.

I ASSUME YOU ARE HERE TO DISCUSS THIS GRAND EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE NKISUS. THEY WILL *STRIKE BACK* FOR THIS. AND *HARD*.

*INDEED*. I HAD A FRONT-ROW VIEW WITH OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, *BEISA*.

SHE MENTIONED THAT SHE WAS TRYING TO SOLVE SOME UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES. BUSINESS LEADERS. POLITICAL INFLUENCERS.

PEOPLE WITH CLOUT. INCLUDING A FORMER *CLIENT* OF YOURS.

HAD YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT?

OF COURSE! *MOST* PEOPLE AROUND *KLIMA'S END* HAVE THEORIES ABOUT THESE DISAPPEARANCES...

THESE POWERFUL PEOPLE ARE RETURNING TO OLD, FORGOTTEN MINES, BUILDING A UTOPIAN UNDERGROUND *CIVILIZATION!*

THE NEW CENTRAL *GOVERNMENT* DOESN'T WANT PEOPLE LIKE THAT AROUND. THEY ARE *PAYING* THEM TO *LEAVE* WAKANDA IN SECRET.

SUCH NONSENSE. IT'S *CLEAR* THAT KING T'CHALLA HAS TAKEN THESE OLIGARCHS WITH HIM TO START A NEW WAKANDAN OUTPOST IN SPACE!

THAT IS ALL VERY *ENTERTAINING.* BUT SHOULD WE NOT LOOK TOWARD THE MOST OBVIOUS EXPLANATION-- THAT BABA NKISU IS DISPOSING OF HIS ENEMIES?

OH, MY WISE FRIEND. THE *OBVIOUS* THING MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE *TRUE* THING. THE *TRUE* THING MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE *COMPLETE* THING. AND THE *COMPLETE* THING...MAY BE THE HARDEST TO BELIEVE.

AND SO... WHAT *DO* YOU BELIEVE?

I BELIEVE... IT WAS *KIVU'MA.*

AND WHO, PRAY TELL, IS *THAT?*

IF YOU DON'T KNOW HIM, I AM NOT THE ONE TO TELL YOU, I'M AFRAID. IT IS A MISTAKE TO EVEN SPEAK HIS NAME *ALOUD.*

COUSIN. WITH APOLOGIES, I MUST ASK YOU TO *LEAVE* FOR NOW.

BUT N'YOBI, I--

PLEASE. *FORGIVE ME.* I HAVE MUCH WORK TO FINISH FOR TODAY.

I... *CERTAINLY.*

"I HAVE MY WORK CUT OUT FOR ME, ANYWAY."

WHERE ARE YOU, SAMARI?

SOME HOURS LATER...

LOOK AT THOSE TWO.

BUT YOU WON'T BELIEVE *THIS* PART...

THEY REMIND ME OF *US*...

THIS IS MY SONG!

I GOT YOU SOMETHING.

I KNOW IT'S NOT THE SAME BRACELET AS THE ONE YOU *LEFT BEHIND* IN MOHANNDA. BUT I THOUGHT--

SAMARI, WHAT...? I DIDN'T GET YOU ANYTHING! I THOUGHT THE IBIS FEAST DAY WAS WHEN YOU--

GIVE GIFTS TO *FAMILY*, NATIMA!

"YOU'RE *FAMILY* TO ME."

LOVELY EVENING.

BAST! DON'T YOU HAVE ANY OTHER FRIENDS?

NOT MANY WHO SHARE MY *INTERESTS.*

I HAVE BEEN GATHERING INTEL ON--

THE RECON WAS A *FAILURE*, YOUR HIGHNESS.

NOT MY TITLE AT THE MOMENT.

YOUR EMINENTLY DISGRACED ROYAL PANTHERNESS.

IT WAS A *DISASTER.* WE MISSED OUR CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO BABA.

THAT WAS HARDLY *MY* FAULT.

I TAKE IT AS A TIMELY REMINDER THAT I WORK *ALONE.*

I'LL BE *GOING.*

WAIT!

I KNOW YOU WANT TO CRACK THIS. I CAN *HELP* YOU.

*HOW?* YOU BARELY KNOW THE CITY. YOU BARELY KNOW ITS PEOPLE OR ITS *THREATS.*

WHAT HELP CAN YOU *POSSIBLY* BE?

I HAVE A *TRICK* OR *TWO* UP MY SLEEVE. SOME GADGETRY. SOME UNUSUAL ABILITIES. FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES. SHALL I GO ON?

WHAT WOULD BE OF MORE USE HERE IS FRIENDS IN *LOW* PLACES.

TOUCHE.

:HUFF: IT'S ANNOYING HOW *EFFORTLESS* THIS IS FOR YOU.

*UNUSUAL ABILITIES.*

A SHRINE TO *KOKOU?* ANOTHER NOVELTY OF BITI.

*"BITI."* SOUNDING LIKE A *LOCAL!*

*TSK.* THE WORSHIP OF VIOLENCE ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF MY FATHER. TETHERED TO *WAR.*

SO DISAPPOINTED. HIS DREAM OF HIS ONLY *SON* FOLLOWING HIM INTO THE MOHANNDAN MILITARY, *UNFULFILLED.*

*MM.* THAT STORY IS *FAMILIAR* TO ME. I HAD A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP WITH MY OWN FATHER AND *BROTHER.*

I DON'T HAVE A BROTHER, YOUR EXILEDNESS.

I THOUGHT THE PANTHER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE *PERCEPTIVE!*

*AH.* APPARENTLY *NOT.* YOU ARE *OKULANI,* THEN? MY APOLOGIES. I DID NOT KNOW.

NO APOLOGY NEEDED. I AM. THOUGH THAT WAS LESS THE *PROBLEM* FOR HIM THAN MY GENERAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE *MILITARY* SERVICE. I LEFT MOHANNDA SO THAT I COULD LIVE AS MY TRUE SELF.

IF YOU HAVE ADVICE ON HOW ONE *DOES* THAT, I WOULD WELCOME IT.

CAN'T HELP YOU. HOWEVER...

...WANT MY ADVICE? THIS PLACE... HAS THE *BEST* CURRY. THEY FRY IT INTO LITTLE CLUSTERS, SORT OF LIKE *ARANCINI*. OH, IT'S AMAZING.

YOU'RE JUST DOING THAT FOR *SPORT*.

I'M DOING IT FOR *DINNER*. ANYWAY, I'LL PAY THEM *TOMORROW*.

I HAVE TO SAY THAT, OR YOU'LL *KICK* ME IN THE *KNEES*.

I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU TO YOUR MEAL. BUT BEFORE I GO...WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE THEORY THAT *KIVU'MA* COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED THOSE PEOPLE? DO YOU KNOW THAT NAME?

THAT'S LIKE ASKING IF THE *DEVIL* DID IT. OF COURSE, KIVU'MA--*IF* YOU BELIEVE HE IS REAL--IS RESPONSIBLE FOR *ALL MANNER* OF EVIL IN BITI. IT'S A *FICTION*, PANTHER.

THIS CITY IS *FULL* OF FICTIONS.

FOR INSTANCE, LOOK HOW *BEAUTIFUL* IT LOOKS. HOW *QUIET* AND PEACEFUL.

THE GOOD TIMES ROLLER RINK.

"WHAT A LIE THAT IS.

"AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT WEDDING? THE NKISUS WILL STRIKE BACK.

"TROUBLE IS *COMING* OUR *WAY*. AND REST ASSURED, IT WILL BE *UGLY*.

DELIVERY FOR *KASINDA*.

IS SHE *EXPECTING* YOU?

I HOPE NOT.

"WAR IS BREWING IN BIRNIN T'CHAKA.

"AND PEOPLE--REGULAR PEOPLE--*YOUR* PEOPLE, MY KING--ARE GOING TO GET *HURT.*"

NEXT: GANG WAR IN BIRNIN T'CHAKA!

# BITI BANTER

Hey, y'all! Eve L. Ewing here. Hope you enjoyed this issue, especially because so many of you wrote after #1 and asked, "who is Beisa?!" Well, now you know--the parts she's willing to show you, anyway.

On to your letters!

Dear Wil,

If you were a king of the most technologically advanced city on the planet, saved the world (not to mention the universe countless times) and are a member of the most famous super-hero team of all time...what could possibly be next?

If you are stripped of your title, your identity, who are you in actuality? These are the questions that Eve L. Ewing posed in issue #1 of BLACK PANTHER, and I think it's a wise choice.

I also enjoyed seeing more of Wakanda and exploring this city. Because, as Eve mentions at the end of the issue, how can we know who or what a country is if we only know its royalty and most famous city?

I picked up the book because I was curious about where it could go after John Ridley's amazing run. And I'm glad I did because the questions that Eve asks have me intrigued. It's also another fine choice to explore the inhabitants, which really grounds the book and makes T'Challa's journey worthwhile.

Chris Allen is perfect for the book. He makes the city of Birnin T'Chaka come alive, and you actually feel like you are living inside of it. Another wise choice.

I think you all have a winner on your hands.

Best wishes,
Chris Osman
*Rotterdam, the Netherlands*

Thanks for writing, Chris! I know this was addressed to Wil, but I just wanted to pop in and say, one, thanks, and two, I agree--Chris Allen is a Wakandan national treasure. The art for the beginning of this issue, featuring the knock-down, drag-out fight with Deathlok, is some of my favorite work he's done so far for the series. We appreciate you reading all the way from the Netherlands! Take care!

Hi, Marvel Mythmakers,

I've never bought an issue of BLACK PANTHER before, but, on a whim, I picked up the first issue of the new run while browsing the shelves at my LCS, hoping for something fresh. Wow, did Eve L. Ewing and Chris Allen not disappoint! Within just a couple of pages, I had been thrust into unfamiliar territory both metaphorically and literally, yet by the time I reached the staples, I was completely invested in this new community.

What really excited me was the focus on world-building, which Eve mentioned as a priority in her closing letter. Wakanda is an entire nation, and nations have a multitude of regions with unique cultures, industries and politics. I can't wait to explore it all!

Thomas Kelsh
*Naperville, IL*

Hey, Thomas! It's fun that on this letters page, we have a note from someone far away and someone not-so-far away. If you go and stand on a rooftop, look eastward and a little bit north and squint your eyes a little bit, you can probably see me waving at you over here in Chicago. "Wakanda is an entire nation, and nations have a multitude of regions"--have you ever considered a career writing Marvel editorial copy?! Because I couldn't have said it better myself. Thanks for taking a chance on us, and supporting a local business while doing it. Cheers!

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We've only got time for these two letters today, but we've loved your responses to the series thus far! For a chance to see your letter answered by Eve in a future issue, write us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

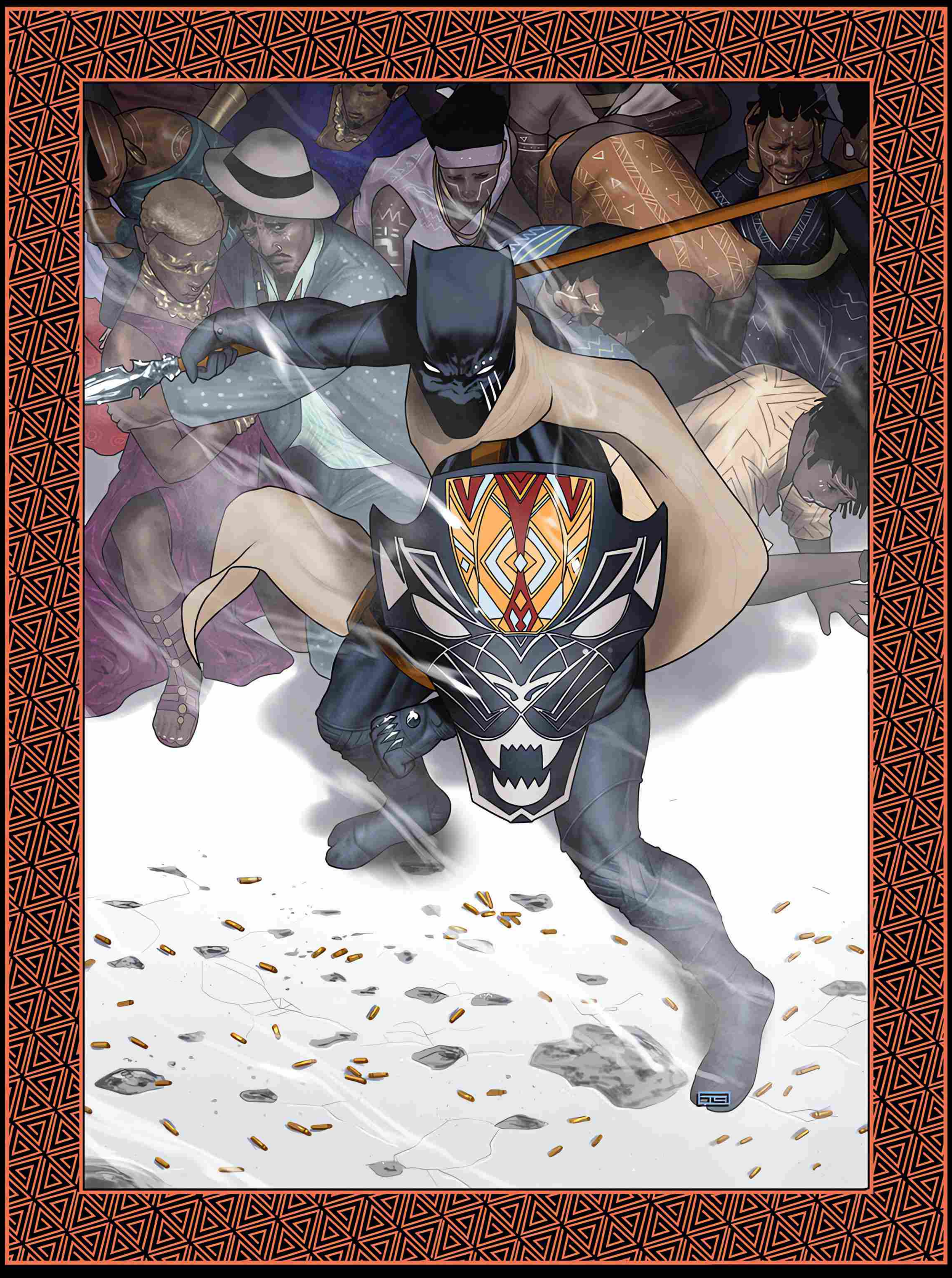
# MAP OF WAKANDA

BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE: MAP BY MAP** (2021).

## BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

# NEXT ISSUE:



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